

Saturday

Codford

Dear Sir, I have been busier still today. For the guns have come & I had to superintend the unloading from the railway & the placing them in our gun park here. It was mostly standing up in the mud & drizzle. The men looked on the guns as if they were Christmas presents & worked willingly so that we finished soon after dark. Smith went to Bath for the week end & Capt. Jenner stayed indoors, so I had everything to see to. We shall not be long now. Moreover there will be 2 advance parties, one to go on with the guns, one to go to an first camp & prepare the way. & I may very likely be in charge of one party. This would probably mean starting on Thursday. I hope the things will arrive soon. As long as they include the khaki trousers, muffers, waistcoats, & blouses, I will mind. Most other things I expect will return.

Now we 4 subalterns have a gun & a detachment each — Thorburn looks after the telephones. I have No 4 gun & shall be in Horton's section — a section is 2 guns or half a battery.

I heard an officer at Oxford Station once asking for Ella Wilcox's Poems & praising them. Capt. Jenner likes Reddy Haggard & Katherine Tynan. He has a painful disease of the gums & may quite possibly leave us for a time at least. Thorburn returns on Monday or Tuesday.

I have taken our mess in hand & have shown the cook how to make for nothing a far better soup than by adding water to a tablet. I got him to put all the bacon bones & rind & green vegetable water in a stock pot. He now fries bread with his bacon. Also he will no longer throw away half a boiled plum & meat pudding, but



frag it in series

That cheque for the Linoleum has not come yet. You must not forget to tell me how much to make it out for.

Havent you some news due about now?

I have been testing the battery compass today too. So you see I also am not idle.

The enclosed bill I want put with other receipts. The verses are some I wrote a month ago & didnt think much of. Perhaps you would like them & put them with the rest. You know the keys are in the chest of drawers in the bedroom.

Perhaps I shall be able to add to this as I start early to walk to the Newbolts - if I am able to go in this busy time. Goodbye. Edry.

P.S. There was only two to demonstrate the Captains myself & we had a fairly good talk about wild animals & birds - he is a sportsman & knows the mountains of Ireland & the coast. But he is always a bit shy (& makes me so) of going very far in showing his tastes.

I have to take church parade tomorrow, so that I shall be late for lunch if I dont get a lift from a lorry on the way.